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REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 6-9 are pending in this application. By this response, claims 1-4 and 6-8 are being amended to further clarify the present invention, and claim 5 is being canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of its subject matter. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 6-8 (Paper No. 4, p. 5).

Applicant respectfully believes that no new matter has been added. Applicant respectfully believes that this Reply is fully responsive to the non-final Office action mailed August 1, 2003 (Paper No. 4).

The Examiner objected to claim 9 because of an informality (Paper No. 4, p. 2) and requested that "said memory" in claim 9 be changed to --said main memory--. Applicant respectfully traverses this objection because claim 1, as now amended, sets forth "a memory", and therefore "said memory" in claim 9 is believed to be proper. Accordingly, in view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the objection to claim 9.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 5, and 9 under 35 USC § 103 as being unpatentable over US Pat. No. 5,734,427 (**Hayashi '427**) in view of US Pat. No. 6,295,596 (**Hirabayashi '596**) (Paper No. 4, p. 2).

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Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1, as amended, is allowable over the Examiner's proposed combination of **Hayashi '427** and **Hirabayashi '596** because: (1) it is not reasonable to modify **Hayashi '427** in view of **Hirabayashi '596** as proposed by the Examiner; and (2) even if **Hayashi '427** were to be modified in view of **Hirabayashi '596** as proposed by the Examiner, the result fails to teach or suggest the claimed camera comprising an imaging device, a thinning-out circuit, a memory, a selector selectively selecting memory areas, and writing and reading based on the selection results, as set forth in claim 1, as amended.

In the present invention, when a first image signal, having a first resolution corresponding to an object, is output from an imaging device, a thinning-out circuit applies a thinning-out process to the first image signal so as to create a second image signal having a second resolution lower than the first resolution. A memory has at least two memory areas, and each of the two memory areas is selectively selected by a selector. A writer writes the second image signal output from the thinning-out circuit into one of the two memory areas based on a selection result of the selector, and a reader reads-out the second image signal from the other of the two memory areas based on the selection result of the selector. The image based on the read second image signal is displayed by a display.

The first image signal output from the imaging device has a higher resolution than the second image signal read-out from the memory to be displayed by the display. Since this image has the high resolution, a time period required for outputting one screen of the first image signal from the

imaging device, that is, a time period required for writing one screen of the second image signal into the memory is longer than a time period required for reading-out one screen of the second image signal from the memory. This, if a writing-destination area of the second image signal is the same as a reading-destination area of the second image signal, makes a reading-out address overpass a writing address, and, as a result, a horizontal line appears as noise on a displayed image.

In the present invention, at least two memory areas are formed in the memory, the second image signal output from the thinning-out circuit is written into one of the memory areas, and the second image signal to be applied to the displayer is read-out from the other of the two memory areas. This prevents noise from appearing in the displayed image.

The present invention prevents a process from being destroyed by temporarily storing into the memory the second image signal based on the first image signal output from the imaging device, and preventing the noise from occurring by an access control toward the two memory areas.

On the contrary, **Hayashi '427** discloses an electronic still camera having a thinning-out circuit, a CCD, and a memory, with **Hayashi '427** failing to disclose or remotely suggest anything about forming the two memory areas into the memory, selectively selecting each of the two memory areas, writing the image signal into one of the two memory areas based on the selecting result, and reading the image signal from the other of the two memory areas based on the selecting result.

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Therefore, we believe the present invention is distinct from **Hayashi '427**.

Hirabayashi '596 discloses a data reproduction apparatus that accesses two banks so as to carry out a data error correction at a high speed. **Hirabayashi '596**, too, fails to disclose or remotely suggest anything about selectively selecting each of the two memory areas, writing the image signal into one of the two memory areas based on the selecting result, and reading the image signal from the other of the two memory areas based on the selecting result. The present invention is not taught or suggested by **Hirabayashi '596**.

A combination of **Hayashi '427** and **Hirabayashi '596** also fails to teach or suggest the present claimed invention. As described above, the apparatus disclosed by **Hayashi '427** is an electronic still camera, while the apparatus disclosed by **Hirabayashi '596** is merely a data reproduction apparatus. Furthermore, **Hirabayashi '596** fail to disclose or remotely suggest that the data reproduction apparatus is applicable to the electronic still camera. Therefore, we believe that it is not reasonable, proper, or likely for one skilled in the art to combine these two references.

In addition, as described above, such a combination fails to disclose or remotely suggest anything about selectively selecting each of the two memory areas, writing the image signal into one of the two memory areas based on the selecting result, and reading the image signal from the other of the two memory areas based on the selecting result in any of the references, as required in the

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present claims. Therefore, even if it is possible to combine these two references, this combination does not teach or suggest the present claimed invention.

The Examiner rejected claims 2-4 under 35 USC § 103 as being unpatentable over **Hayashi '427** in view of **Hirabayashi '596** and US Pat. No. 6,292,218 (**Parulski '218**) (Paper No. 4, p. 4). **Parulski '218** discloses an electronic camera for initiating capture of still images. **Parulski '218** fails to remedy the above-described deficiencies of the Examiner's proposed modification of **Hayashi '427** in view of **Hirabayashi '596**, because **Parulski '218** fails to teach or suggest the camera comprising an imaging device, a thinning-out circuit, a memory, a selector selectively selecting memory areas, and writing and reading based on the selection results, as set forth in claim 1, as amended.

The amendments and remarks above demonstrate that **Hayashi '427**, **Hirabayashi '596**, and **Parulski '218**, whether taken together or individually, fail to teach or suggest the features of claim 1, as amended, and therefore also demonstrate that this cited art inherently fails to teach or suggest the features of claims 2-4 and 6-9 depending from claim 1. Therefore, in view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-4 and 6-9, as amended, are allowable over the cited art.

In view of the foregoing, all pending claims, as amended, are respectfully believed to be in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

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If the Examiner feels that this application is not currently in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for a telephone conference to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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